

Message Text

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73/62

ACTION HEW-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6397

UNCLAS ROME 4334

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 4334 VICE 43334)

3.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, OSCI, IT

SUBJECT: TELEMEDICINE PROJECT

REF.: STATE: 055444

SCIATT ATTENDED THE MARCONI FOUNDATION CONFERENCE IN BOLOGNA ON 13 MARCH ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MEDICINE. INCLUDED AMONGST THE SPEAKERS WERE THREE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION THAT VISITED NIH IN DECEMBER 1975, PROFESSORS FEGIZ, SERRA, ANGELINI. THE OTHER SPEAKERS WERE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA (3), THE MINISTRY OF POST AND TELCOMMUNICATIONS, RAI (RADIO AND TELEVISION AGENCY), AND THE TELESPAZIO AGENCY (2). THE TALKS INCLUDED TELEMEDICINE IN THE UNITED STATES, ELECTROCARDIOGRAMS BY TELEPHONE, TELEMEDICINE FOR ITALY AND THE LOGISTICS OF TELEMEDICINE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WAS TO SHOW THE NECESSITY TO IMPLEMENT TELEMEDICINE NEW TO ALLEVIATE THE CRITICAL PROBLEMS OF UNSATISFACTORY HEALTH CARE DELIVERY, UNSATISFACTORY MEDICAL EDUCATION AND THE NEED TO IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL PROGRAM OF TELEMEDICINE. THIS EFFORT IS PART OF THEIR STRATEGY TO ACQUIRE THE SUPPORT OF THE REGIONS OF ITALY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE EXPERIMENT DISCUSSED AT THE NIH.

/COMMENT/: ALTHOUGH LACK OF FUNDING REMAINS A SERIOUS OBSTACLE
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TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPERIMENT, THE LACK OF EXPERTISE

OF THE COMMISSION (ALL OF WHOM ARE DOCTORS) TO UNDERSTAND THE
MECHANISM OF OBTAINING PROGRAM APPROVAL REPRESENTS AN EQUALLY
SERIOUS PROBLEM AS DOES THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS. THE EMBASSY
IS MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH THE COMMISSION AS THEY CONTINUE TO
SEEK FUNDING OR AT A MINIMUM, THE USE OF GOVERNMENT TV FACILITIES
AND PERSONNEL BY LIMITING THE HOURS OF THE EXPERIMENT TO THE
MORNING HOURS WHEN THE TV STATIONS(2) ARE NOT BROADCASTING.
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Message Attributes

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